IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1-30. (Canceled).

31. (New)   A system comprising:

a software program including two or more trace points;

a trace control channel;

a trace channel; and

a runtime tracer;

wherein the trace control channel includes an identification of one or more selected trace

points of the two or more trace points;

wherein the runtime tracer is configured to concurrently execute a first and a second

instance of the software program;

wherein each of the first and second instances of the software program is configured to

interact with the trace control channel to save trace information corresponding to

the one or more selected trace points in the trace channel.

32. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the runtime tracer comprises a
first computer, wherein the first and second instances of the software program are
executed on the first computer.

33. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the runtime tracer comprises a
first and a second computer, wherein the first instance of the software program is
executed at the first computer, and the second instance of the software program is
executed at the second computer.

34. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 33, further comprising a shared memory accessible to the first and second computers over a network, wherein the trace channel is included within the shared memory.

35. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 31, further comprising a first shared memory, wherein the trace channel is included within the first shared memory.

36. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 35, wherein the trace control channel is included within the first shared memory.

37. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 35, further comprising a second shared memory, wherein the trace control channel is included within the second shared memory.

38. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the first instance of the software program corresponds to a first version of the software program, and the second instance of the software program corresponds to a second version of the software program, wherein the second version differs from the first version.

39. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 31, further including a snap tool configured to create an instantaneous copy of contents of the trace channel.

40. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein contents of the trace control channel are dynamically modified during execution of the first and second instances of the software program by a computer operator.

41. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 31, wherein the trace control channel is configured using pre-set settings.

42. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 31, further comprising a relational database comprising two or more entries, wherein each entry of the two or more entries corresponds to a respective trace point of the two or more trace points, wherein each

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entry of the two or more entries includes human-readable trace information for the respective trace point.

43. (New)   The system as recited in Claim 42, further comprising a reporter configured to provide a human-readable listing corresponding to an instantaneous snapshot of the trace channel.

44. (New)   A method comprising:

        concurrently executing a first and a second instance of a software program
                including two or more trace points;

        the first instance of the software program interacting with a trace control channel
                including an identification of one or more selected trace points of the two
                or more trace points to save trace information corresponding to the one or
                more selected trace points in a trace channel; and

        the second instance of the software program interacting with the trace control
                channel to save trace information corresponding to the one or more
                selected trace points in the trace channel.

45. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein the first instance of the software program is executed on a first computer, and the second instance of the software program is executed on the first computer.

46. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein the first instance of the software program is executed at a first computer, and the second instance of the software program is executed at a second computer.

47. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 46, wherein the trace channel is included within a shared memory accessible to the first and second computers over a network.

48. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein the trace channel is included within a first shared memory.

49. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 48, wherein the trace control channel is included within the first shared memory.

50. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 48, wherein the trace control channel is included within a second shared memory.

51. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 44, wherein the first instance of the software program corresponds to a first version of the software program, and the second instance of the software program corresponds to a second version of the software program, wherein the second version differs from the first version.

52. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 44, further comprising:
        creating an instantaneous copy of contents of the trace channel.

53. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 44, further comprising:
        dynamically modifying contents of the trace channel control during execution of
            the first and second instances of the software program.

54. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 44, further comprising:
        configuring the trace control channel using pre-set settings.

55. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 44, further comprising:
        storing two or more entries in a relational database, wherein each entry of the two
            or more entries corresponds to a respective trace point of the two or more
            trace points, and wherein each entry of the two or more entries includes
            human-readable trace information for the respective trace point.

56. (New)   The method as recited in Claim 55, further comprising:
        providing a human-readable listing corresponding to an instantaneous snapshot of
            the trace channel.